2/22/68 In a long phone conversation with George Lardner, Jr., this p.m., on Shaw (the conversation was about Thornley), he said that he had been pressuring the DJ to change its statement on the identity of Shaw-Bertrand when they had told him it was a goof. He said the FBI had briefed Clark and that they had erred. I told him I knew the FBI had a Shaw file but denied it and I told him that while I would not tell him my source I would tell him it was a man who had signed a statement on Shaw. He said possibly he did know about that. I told him that if what he had was what I had I would confirm it but I would not otherwise disclose my source. He then said that the FBI " "first ran into Shaw during World War II in connection with the Bund". I told him "That's not it but I'm interested in it." His response was, "That's all I remember; it was during World War II." In order to be certain to get what he said correctly I switched on the tape recorder to get his words exactly and transcribe them here.

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Clark Discounts a Shaw Conspiracy

By ROBERT B. SEMPLE Jr
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, March 2—Acting Attorney General Ramsey Clark said today that, on the basis of inquires by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, there appeared to be "no connection," between Clay L. Shaw and the assassination of President Kennedy.

Mr. Clark made the statement to newsmen in a corridor of a Senate office building moments after the Senate Judiciary Committee unanimously approved his nomination as attorney General.

Mr. Shaw, a New Orleans businessman who is retired director of the International Trade Mart in New Orleans, was arrested yesterday in connection with the investigation of the Kennedy assassination be conducted by the New Or- Garrison.

When Mr. Garrison announced the arrest, the first in his five-month investigation of the assassination, he said that Mr. Shaw would be charged with "participation in a conspiracy to murder John F. Kennedy."

Reply From Clark

This morning, when asked whether he had any information regarding Mr. Shaw, Mr. Clark replied:

"He was involved in an F.B.I. investigation in the New Orleans area in November and December, 1963. We have the evidence that's there involved, and you can assume that their [the F.B.I.'s] conclusions were from the Warren Commission Report."

The Warren Commission Report did not mention Mr. Shaw's name once in 29 volumes. Presumably, Mr. Clark meant to convey by his remark that the F.B.I. and the commission did not think the evidence gathered on Mr. Shaw worthy of inclusion.

Says F.B.I. Checked Shaw

Asked directly whether there was any connection between Mr. Shaw and the assassination, Mr. Clark replied:

"On the evidence that the F.B.I. had, there was no connection found."

"He was checked out and found clear, more or less?" Mr. Clark was asked.

"Yes, that's right," he replied.

Mr. Clark's statement that the F.B.I. had conducted an investigation of Mr. Shaw caused, however, a certain amount of bewilderment in some quarters here.

There is no record either in the Warren Commission Report or in documents relating to the assassination in the National Archives of an F.B.I. investigation of a man named Clay L. Shaw.

'No Comment' From F.B.I.

Moreover, usually well-informed Government sources, who asked not to be identified, said that to the best of their knowledge the F.B.I. had not conducted an investigation of Clay L. Shaw. The F.B.I. itself maintained a complete official silence on the matter, and would offer only a terse "no comment" to any inquiries regarding the Shaw case.

The discrepancy between these accounts and Mr. Clark's statements this morning, however, may be more apparent than real.

An examination of papers in the archives, for example, shows that the F.B.I. did inquire into the activities of a man named "Clay Bertrand." Mr. Garrison, says that "Clay Bertrand" was an alias used by Mr. Shaw. If this is so, and Clay Bertrand and Mr. Shaw are the same man, it is thought then that the bureau did indeed inquire into the activities of Mr. Shaw.

A Justice Department official said tonight that his agency was convinced that Mr. Bertrand and Mr. Shaw were the same man, and that this was the basis for Mr. Clark's assertions this morning.

Whether the bureau conducted a deep and extensive investigation of Mr. Shaw—alias Mr. Bertrand—is another question. The documents in the archives mention Mr. Bertrand on 10 different pages. But nowhere is he identified as being the same man as Mr. Shaw.

Moreover, the archives shed little light on Mr. Bertrand's activities. His only important role, judging by the archives alone, was that he was said to have placed a telephone call to a New Orleans lawyer, Dean Andrews, on Nov. 23, the day after the assassination, asking Mr. Andrews whether he would be willing to defend Lee Harvey Oswald.